

Ventura's Diverse Inhabitants

Below are some of the many prominent individuals interred at Cemetery Memorial Park who represent Ventura's cultural diversity and earliest residents: Native Americans who, along with Spanish missionaries, built the San Buenaventura Mission; Mexican settlers; European American farmers; Italian, French and German immigrants; and Chinese railroad workers who established Ventura's Chinatown.

Jacklin Willett (1838-1915) moved to Ventura from Ohio in 1873 to establish a flourmill. In 1874 he bought 51 acres on Ventura Avenue, today's Willet Ranch, to raise fruit, grain and beans.



*Jacklin with wife Mary Willett c1900
Museum of Ventura County*

Candelaria Valenzuela (1840-1915), one of the last Ventureño Chumash in the Sespe area and a noted basket maker, was the main Native American language and culture source for Smithsonian ethnographer George Henley. She and husband Jose worked and lived on the Peirano Ranch north of Ventura.



*Candelaria Valenzuela
Museum of Ventura County*

Concepcion Ortega (1810-1909) lived with husband Emigdio in the Ortega Adobe. Emigdio's grandfather, Jose Francisco Ortega, captained the Portola Expedition in 1769 and founded the Santa Barbara and San Buenaventura Missions with Fr. Junípero Serra. Concepcion's son, Emilio Carlos Ortega, created the Ortega Chile Packing Company in his mother's kitchen. The historic Ortega Adobe is located at 215 W. Main Street in downtown Ventura.



*Ortega Adobe
Museum of Ventura County*

Jose Delores Olivas (1838-1911) was one of the 21 children of Teodora and Raymundo Olivas. Their Rancho San Miguel covered Ventura's southeastern area. The Olivas family home is open to the public at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park, 4200 Olivas Park Drive in Ventura.

William Dewey Hobson (d. 1915), moved from Illinois to Ventura in the 1850s, and is called "the Father of Ventura County" for his leadership in creating the County when it separated from Santa Barbara County in 1873. The cattle rancher and meatpacker also built some of the town's earliest buildings, including the first Courthouse and Hill School.



*WD Hobson
Museum of Ventura County*

Cemetery Memorial Park

For more
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VENTURA
www.cityofventura.net/cmp

